

Claims:

1. Method for managing a discovery-related process in a network, comprising:
  - identifying topology information of the network using the discovery-related process in an active mode;
  - placing the discovery-related process from the active mode into a standby mode using a management process;
  - monitoring to detect specified events in the network using the management process and then forward the detected specified events to the discovery-related process, and/or monitoring to detect arrival of a predetermined point in time; and
  - placing the discovery-related process from the standby mode into the active mode when the detected specified events exceed a threshold and/or when the predetermined point in time arrives.
2. The method of Claim 1, comprising:
  - signaling the management process when the discovery-related process completes identification of the network's topology information.
3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the discovery-related process transits from the active mode to the standby mode in an ordered sequence.
4. The method of Claim 1, comprising:
  - the discovery-related process identifying the network's topology information in response to the discovery-related process transiting from the standby mode to the active mode.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein the discovery-related process performing identification of the network's topology information in response to the discovery-related process transiting from the standby mode to the active mode comprises:

- restarting initial subprocesses of the discovery-related process;
- providing network topology information discovered by the initial subprocesses to inactive subprocesses of the discovery-related process; and
- the inactive subprocesses becoming active in response to the provided network topology information.

6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the initial subprocesses are restarted in an ordered sequence.

7. The method of Claim 4, comprising:

- repeating the placing the discovery-related process from the active mode into the standby mode using the management process, after the discovery-related process identifies the network's topology information in response to the discovery-related process transiting from the standby mode to the active mode.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the discovery-related process in the standby mode compares the detected specified events to the threshold, and initiates a transition from the standby mode to the active mode when the detected specified events exceed the threshold.

9. A system for managing a discovery-related process in a network, comprising:

- means for identifying topology information of the network in an active mode;

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means for placing the discovery-related process from the active mode into a standby mode, for detecting specified events in the network and forwarding the detected specified events to the means for identifying, and/or for detecting arrival of a predetermined point in time;

wherein the means for identifying compares the detected specified events against a threshold and shifts from the standby mode into the active mode when the detected specified events exceed the threshold, and/or shifts from the standby mode into the active mode when arrival of the predetermined point time is detected.

10. The system of Claim 9, wherein the means for identifying signals the means for placing, detecting and forwarding when the means for identifying completes identification of the network's topology information.

11. The system of Claim 9, wherein the means for identifying shifts from the active mode to the standby mode in an ordered sequence.

12. The system of Claim 9, wherein the means for identifying identifies the network's topology information in response to shifting from the standby mode to the active mode.

13. The system of Claim 9, wherein the means for identifying in the standby mode compares the detected specified events to the threshold, and initiates a shift from the standby mode to the active mode when the detected specified events exceed the threshold.

14. The system of Claim 13, wherein the means for placing, detecting and forwarding shifts the means for identifying into the standby mode and the means

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for identifying initiates a shift into the active mode when the detected specified events exceed the threshold, in a repeating cycle.

15. A machine readable medium comprising a computer program for causing a computer to perform:

identifying topology information of the network using the discovery-related process in an active mode;

placing the discovery-related process from the active mode into a standby mode using a management process;

monitoring to detect specified events in the network using the management process and then forward the detected specified events to the discovery-related process, and/or monitoring to detect arrival of a predetermined point in time; and

placing the discovery-related process from the standby mode into the active mode when the detected specified events exceed a threshold and/or when the predetermined point in time arrives.

16. The medium of Claim 15, comprising a computer program for causing a computer to perform:

signaling the management process when the discovery-related process completes identification of the network's topology information.

17. The medium of Claim 15, wherein the discovery-related process transits from the active mode to the standby mode in an ordered sequence.

18. The medium of Claim 15, comprising a computer program for causing a computer to perform:

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the discovery-related process identifying the network's topology information in response to the discovery-related process transiting from the standby mode to the active mode.

19. The medium of Claim 18, wherein the discovery-related process performing identification of the network's topology information in response to the discovery-related process transiting from the standby mode to the active mode comprises:

- restarting initial subprocesses of the discovery-related process;
- providing network topology information discovered by the initial subprocesses to inactive subprocesses of the discovery-related process; and
- the inactive subprocesses becoming active in response to the provided network topology information.

20. The medium of Claim 19, wherein the initial subprocesses are restarted in an ordered sequence.

21. The medium of Claim 18, comprising a computer program for causing a computer to perform:

- repeating the placing the discovery-related process from the active mode into the standby mode using the management process, after the discovery-related process identifies the network's topology information in response to the discovery-related process transiting from the standby mode to the active mode.

22. The medium of Claim 15, wherein the discovery-related process in the standby mode compares the detected specified events to the threshold, and initiates a transition from the standby mode to the active mode when the detected specified events exceed the threshold.